



Julie Ann Carter &lt;juliecarter@utah.gov&gt;

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**comments on Berry's proposed avintaquin canyon oil well project**

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**sebe ziesler** <sziesler@lycos.com>

Tue, Feb 25, 2014 at 12:24 PM

To: juliecarter@utah.gov, bradford.wazaney@bia.gov

Cc: alibritt@yahoo.com

Please see my attached letter. As a property owner in the proposed area, I hope my concerns can be addressed.

Thank you,

Sebe Ziesler

**FILED****FEB 25 2014****SECRETARY, BOARD OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING****avintaquin\_oil\_feb2014.pdf**

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I am writing to present my concerns about the Avintaquin Canyon Exploration and Development Project proposed by Berry Petroleum Company (now owned by Linn Energy).

1) From the map, ingress/egress isn't marked, however my concern is that ingress/egress will go south from Hwy 40 on Red Creek Rd to Avintaquin Rd and Strawberry River Rd and then fan out to the various wells. This path goes directly through a recreational residential area of nearly 100 lots, aka Pinnacles HOA. The owners of the lots, both full time and part time residents paid significant amounts of money to purchase the lots to enjoy the peace and quiet, view, and recreational opportunities in the canyon. I am one such owner. If there is any traffic through or near the residential area from an oil well project, there will be a tremendous burden placed on residents and guest due to the noise, traffic, pollution, dust, and unsightliness. How will this tremendous burden be addressed?

2) The map shows several proposed well pads within ten feet of Strawberry river and shows proposed road improvements on Strawberry River Rd west from the intersection of Avintaquin Rd and also improvements up the lower portions of Timber Canyon Rd. This portion of the Strawberry river is commonly known by trout fisherman as the 'Wild Strawberry' and is one of Utah's best small rivers for fly fishing. Land surrounding the river was purchased by the Nature Conservancy starting around 1988. A quote describing the purchase "It is part of a long-range effort to preserve a pristine 18-mile stretch of river reaching from Soldier Creek Dam to the Strawberry Pinnacles"<sup>1</sup>. I do not see how several oil wells and/or heavy duty roads to access near by oil-wells at all fits in with the existing and long standing pristine preservation goal. To address this concern I would suggest that proposed project area be modified by eliminating Sections 19-24, 29-31, Township 4 South, Range 8 West from the proposal. This will remove all the well pads and access along and near the Strawberry River thus better keep the beautiful area pristine.

3) Both Berry Petroleum Company and Linn Energy have had past environmental contaminations. Berry a 1993 84,000 gallon pipeline oil spill<sup>2</sup> and Linn Energy contaminating Hominy Creek from oil field production brine in 2009<sup>3</sup> and then similar contamination only seven months later in the same county.<sup>4</sup> Coupled with their track record, the terrain around the proposed oil well pads is very steep and prone to significant runoff erosion. The steep terrain also makes emergency access much more difficult. Basically any small spill or contamination in the area is going to take a long time to contain and much of the spill will quickly flow down to the Strawberry river, causing significant damage to the wildlife in and around the Strawberry river. How is the Strawberry river going to be protected in the event of negligence, accidents or other issues which could cause contaminant discharge?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19880419&id=BD5TAAAAIABJ&sjid=xYMDAAAAIABJ&pg=6927,1660865>

<sup>2</sup> <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a21708abb48b5a9785257359003f0231/40f0eb48fa3ba9c4852570d8005e122d!OpenDocument>

<sup>3</sup> <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/74f382c2882e9388852575e40060c156!OpenDocument>

<sup>4</sup> <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/bddda1ff92fa78ac852576c400614d7b!OpenDocument>